

have. I believe it is wrong that our Nation's seniors are forced to pay the highest prices in the world for their prescription drug needs, and both of my plans could provide immediate financial relief for the nearly 119,000 Medicare beneficiaries in South Dakota and the 39 million Medicare beneficiaries nationwide.

I have also introduced legislation that would guarantee greater access to generic pharmaceuticals, which play an integral role in keeping down the cost of pharmaceuticals. Many seniors have expressed to me that if they only had greater access to generics that they could get a better handle on their medication costs. This is another way we can immediately address the price of prescription drugs without additional bureaucratic red-tape.

There is no question, however, that a comprehensive Medicare prescription drug benefit would be a tremendous addition to the Medicare program. I have been an ardent supporter of efforts in recent years to push forward with a strong, voluntary prescription drug plan that gives seniors the option of prescription drugs through Medicare. I strongly believe that we must ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to needed drugs, access to their local pharmacy, and affordable premiums that make the program accessible to all. And, perhaps most importantly, any benefit must ensure rural beneficiaries, like many on Medicare in South Dakota, are assured that they have universal access wherever they live.

I was pleased to join in AARP's "Medicare Monday" celebration. Providing Medicare prescription drug benefits is a goal that I share with Medicare beneficiaries nationwide, and I will continue my fight for lower prescription drug costs until we reach that goal.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2601. An act to extend the Export Administration Act until November 20, 2001.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-3135. A communication from the Attorney General and the United States Trade Representative, transmitting jointly, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Repeal of 1916 Act"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3136. A communication from the Director of Headquarters and Executive Personnel Service, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomi-

nation confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary for Environmental Restoration and Waste Management, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3137. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans Florida: Approval of Revisions to the Florida State Implementation Plan" (FRL7022-3) received on July 27, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3138. A communication from the Employee Benefits Manager of the AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Reports of Federal Pension Plans for calendar year 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3139. A communication from the White House Liaison of the Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3140. A communication from the White House Liaison of the Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3141. A communication from the White House Liaison of the Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3142. A communication from the White House Liaison of the Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary of Adult and Vocational Education, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3143. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Change in Specifications for Gum or Wood Rosin Derivatives in Chewing Gum Base" (Doc. No. 99F-2533) received on July 27, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3144. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Identification of Blended Beef, Pork, Poultry or Seafood Products" received on July 27, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3145. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clomazone; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL6787-5) received on July 27, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3146. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Carfentrazone-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL6792-2) received on July 27, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3147. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Carfentrazone-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL6790-9) received on July 27, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3148. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Azoxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL6792-5) received on July 27, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3149. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sulfentrazone; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL6793-1) received on July 27, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3150. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary, Financial Management and Comptroller, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3151. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary for Research, Development, and Acquisition, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3152. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary of Manpower and Reserve Affairs, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3153. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3154. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of General Counsel, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3155. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary, Financial Management and Comptroller, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3156. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Deputy Under Secretary for Acquisition and Technology, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3157. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Director